THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

HOUSING COMMITTEE

February 19, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM supports Proposed House Bill 5071 "An Act Concerning the Supportive Housing Initiative."

H.B. 5071 would provide for additional funds for supportive housing expansion.

Supportive housing is permanent, affordable housing with on-site support services to serve the needs of the most vulnerable residents, including the homeless. Supportive housing residences are owned and operated by experienced community-based organizations that maintain a high standard of property management.

CCM supports ways to provide much needed assistance to persons requiring supportive housing. This bill will work considerably toward relieving the state's homelessness problems.

CCM urges the Committee to <u>favorably report</u> on Proposed House Bill 5071.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Analyst via email dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3000.